and water on himself. All the food, cutlery and glasses were strewn an other him and were cleared by the cabin attendents. After that, the passenger slept in a drunken state. No action has been taken by Indian Airlines against him.

Estimates Committee's recommendation on vesting more powers to service chiefs

2335. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee of the Parliament had recommended vesting of greater powers to the three Chiefs of Staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether an inter-Ministerial Committee reviewed the delegation of powers to service Headquarters and lower echelons in the services; and

(e) if so, the details of the specific recommendations made by the inter-Ministerial Committee and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The Estimates Committee of Parliament in its Report has referred to the issue of enhanced delegation of powers to the Chiefs of Staff. The delegation of financial powers to the Services is reviewed from time to time and enhancements as are considered necessary are ordered.

(d) and (e) The Government have considered the inter-Ministerial Committee's Report and substantive recommendations of the Committee have been accepted. Accordingly, financial powers delegated to various authorities in Services Head quarters and lower echelons in the Services have been enhanced.

Indo-Russian collaboration for aviation venture

2336. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Russia, an agreement was signed for setting up an Indo-Russian Collaboration for aviation venture;

(b) if so, the details of the contemplated project and its objectives; and

(c) the steps taken so far and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) An agreement on formation of a joint venture company by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), in collaboration with Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) alongwith certain Russian organisations was signed on 30 June, 1994 during the visit of Prime Minister to Moscow. The scope of activities of the Joint venture company covers warehousing of aviation stores and servicing, repair, modification, etc. of aeronautical equipment. The company is in the process of being incorporated in India and parallely various steps for its business development have been initiated.

Implementation of Pension Schemes in Defence Cantonment Bodies

2337. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rules of liberalised pension or family pension schemes are not being strictly followed by various defence cantonment bodies;

(b) whether these cantonments have been working under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Defence or Director General of Defence Estates;

(c) whether Government have received a number of representations and requests from various sections of affected persons for redressing their grievances for pensions;

(d) whether effective action has not yet been taken to direct the concerned department for following the rules of liberalised pension scheme of Government of India; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Cantonment Boards function under the overall control of the Central Government.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Representations were received for extension of ex-gratia pensionary benefits to the widows and dependents of the deceased retired employees of the Cantonment Boards who were subscribing to the Contributory Provident Fund; provision of pensionary benefits to the employees of the Boards who retired prior to 1st May, 1976 as well as expeditious finalisation of pensionary claims.

As per policy, employees of the Cantonment Boards who had retired piror to 1st May, 1976, are not entitled to the pension scheme introduced w.e.f. 1st May, 1976, as they had already been paid all the benefits admissible to them under the existing CPF scheme. A decision in the matter of ex-gratia payment to the deceased employees of the Cantonment Boards prior to 1st May, 1976 is linked with the financial condition of the Cantonment Boards. Necessary instructions have been issued by the Director General Defence Estates to the authorities concerned for expeditious process of finalisation of pension classes admissible under the rules.

Unserviceable tanks kept at Kirkee

2338. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Armoured Fighting Vehicles (Tanks) of various types of 2nd World War Vintage held in unserviceable/beyond repair condition/obsolute type at Central Armoured Fighting Vehicle Depot (unfit vehicle park) at Kirkee;

(b) what is the total area occupied (both covered and uncovered) by these unfit vehicles;

(c) the establishment sanctioned for watch and ward and holding/stocking (store keeper and security) of these vehicles and what is the recurring annual expenditure for the same; and

(d) whether these equipments have any use in future and if not, the reasons for which these are kept?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are 10 such Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) of Second World War vintage in Central Armouerd Fighting Vehicle Depot, Kirkee.

(b) These vehicles are occupying approximately 400 Sequare Metres of open space.

(c) No security personnel have been sanctioned specifically to guard these vehicles. The sanctioned securities personnel are for the security of the entire compound and holdings of the Depot. As such no extra expenditure is being incurred on guarding these vehicles.

(d) These vehicles have been earmarked for handing over to the War Museums for display.